

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An engineered microparticle comprising:
a conductive core; and
an insulating self-assembled monolayer coating the conductive core, the monolayer
having a thickness sufficient to render the microparticle maneuverable by
dielectrophoresis.
2. (Withdrawn) The microparticle of claim 1, wherein the conductive core comprises an
insulator coated with a conducting shell.
3. (Withdrawn) The engineered microparticle of claim 1, wherein the conductive core
comprises gold, silver, platinum, or copper.
4. (Withdrawn) The engineered microparticle of claim 1, wherein the self-assembled
monolayer comprises an alkanethiol self-assembled monolayer.
5. (Withdrawn) The engineered microparticle of claim 1, wherein the self-assembled
monolayer comprises a phospholipid self-assembled monolayer.
6. (Withdrawn) The engineered microparticle of claim 1, further comprising a linking
element coupled to the microparticle.
7. (Withdrawn) The engineered microparticle of claim 6, wherein the linking element
comprises an antibody, single chain antibody, peptide, hormone, nucleic acid
sequence, therapeutic drug, antibiotic, or a chemically-reactive compound.

8. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for binding to an analyte, the apparatus comprising:
an engineered microparticle comprising:
a conductive core;
an insulating layer coating the conductive core, the insulating layer having a thickness
sufficient to render the apparatus maneuverable by dielectrophoresis; and
a linking element coupled to the engineered microparticle.
9. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the linking element comprises an
antibody, single chain antibody, peptide, hormone, nucleic acid sequence,
therapeutic drug, antibiotic, or a chemically-reactive compound.
10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a label coupled to the
linking element.
11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the label comprises a fluorescent
marker, a chromophore, a luminescent marker, or an enzyme.
12. (Withdrawn) An apparatus maneuverable by dielectrophoresis, comprising:
an insulating core coated with a conducting shell;
a first self-assembled monolayer coating the conducting shell; and
a second self-assembled monolayer coating the first self-assembled monolayer.
13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first self-assembled monolayer
comprises an alkanethiol self-assembled monolayer.
14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the second self-assembled
monolayer comprises a phospholipid self-assembled monolayer.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the insulating core comprises
polystyrene.

16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a linking element coupled to the apparatus.
17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the linking element comprises an antibody, single chain antibody, peptide, hormone, nucleic acid sequence, therapeutic drug, antibiotic, or a chemically-reactive compound.
18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a label coupled to the linking element.
- 19-23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently amended) A method for manipulating a complex in a sample, the method comprising:
admixing with the sample a linking element and an engineered microparticle comprising a conductive core[[,]] and an insulating layer coating the conductive core ~~and, the~~ insulating layer comprising one or more self-assembled monolayer layers and having a thickness sufficient to render the engineered microparticle maneuverable by dielectrophoresis, ~~and a linking element;~~
associating the engineered microparticle with ~~the~~ a target analyte to form the complex;
and
manipulating the complex using dielectrophoresis.
25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the sample comprises blood, urine, saliva, amniotic fluid, biopsy, cell suspension, cell lysate, chromatographic fraction, or conditioned media..
26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the sample comprises water, food, food processing, food distribution, mineral, or ore..
27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the manipulating comprises sorting.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the manipulating comprises separating.
29. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the manipulating comprises purification of the sample.
30. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the manipulating comprises trapping.
31. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the linking element comprises an antibody, single chain antibody, peptide, hormone, nucleic acid sequence, therapeutic drug, antibiotic, or a chemically-reactive compound.
32. (Cancelled)
33. (Previously presented) A method for identifying one or more complexes within a sample, the method comprising:
admixing with the sample a plurality of engineered microparticles, each microparticle having a different dielectric property;
associating the plurality of engineered microparticles with one or more target analytes to form one or more complexes; and
identifying the one or more complexes by distinguishing between the different dielectric properties using one or more impedance sensors or different dielectrophoretic responses to AC electrical fields of various frequencies.
34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein each the plurality of engineered microparticles comprise a conductive core and an insulating layer.
35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the insulating layer comprises one or more self-assembled monolayer layers.

36. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a complex within a sample, the method comprising:
admixing with the sample a linking element and an engineered microparticle comprising a conductive core[[,]] and an insulating layer coating the conductive core ~~and, the insulating layer~~ and having a thickness sufficient to render the engineered microparticle maneuverable by dielectrophoresis, ~~and a linking element~~;
associating the engineered microparticle with a target analyte to form the complex, the complex having a second dielectric property; and
detecting the complex by distinguishing between the first and second dielectric properties using one or more impedance sensors.
37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the sample comprises blood, urine, saliva, amniotic fluid, biopsy, cell suspension, cell lysate, chromatographic fraction, or conditioned media.
38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the sample comprises water, food, food processing, food distribution, mineral, or ore.
39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the linking element comprises an antibody, single chain antibody, peptide, hormone, nucleic acid sequence, therapeutic drug, antibiotic, or a chemically-reactive compound.
40. (Cancelled)
41. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a complex within a sample, the method comprising:
admixing with the sample a linking element and an engineered microparticle comprising a conductive core[[,]] and an insulating layer coating the conductive core ~~and, the insulating layer~~ and having a thickness sufficient to render the engineered microparticle maneuverable by dielectrophoresis, ~~and a linking element~~;

associating the engineered microparticle with a target analyte to form the complex, the complex having a second dielectric property; and
detecting the complex by distinguishing between the first and second dielectric properties using different dielectrophoretic responses to AC electrical fields of various frequencies.